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Permit # G-157



THE UNITED STATES  
COAST GUARD BAND  
Lieutenant Commander Adam Williamson, Director  
Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wynman, Assistant Director



Presorted First Class

U.S. Coast Guard Band (mb)  
15 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320

Return Service Requested

Summer 2017

# BEHIND THE SCENES

ON THE COVER - The U.S. Coast Guard Band in marching formation.  
Photo by PA2 Richard Brahm.

## COAST GUARD BAND SUPPORTS 2017 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

January 20th, 2017, inauguration day, was unseasonably warm in Washington, D.C. Usually scarves, gloves, and heavy wool bridge coats would warm the members of the Coast Guard Band as they march down the inaugural parade route. This year, however, the Band stepped off without winter coats, leaving their smart blue and red ceremonial uniforms on display throughout the monumental event.

Participation in inaugural proceedings is not new to the Coast Guard Band. The Band has been involved in every Presidential inauguration since Herbert Hoover's in 1929. Although the Band always participates in the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, support of other inaugural actives varies. In the past, Coast Guard Band musicians have played inaugural balls and participated in pre-ceremony concerts alongside members from the other premier service bands. This year, in addition to the parade, the Coast Guard Band Brass Quintet provided musical support for the inaugural luncheon, a tradition that dates back to George Washington's presidency. This was the fourth consecutive luncheon for the Brass Quintet, and the third time that the ensemble has had the privilege of rendering one of the first sets of musical honors for an incoming American President.

Following the luncheon, the members of the Brass Quintet mustered with the Band at a staging area on the National Mall. Under the shadow of the Washington Monument and lead by Drum Major Master Chief Jonathan Towne, the Band took its place in the parade queue. The Band stepped off at sunset to a thundering percussion cadence, reaching the bright lights of the Presidential reviewing stand about an hour later. The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Admiral Paul Zukunft, stood alongside the President and First Lady and looked on as the Band played four "Ruffles and Flourishes" and transitioned directly into Semper Paratus, the official march of the U.S. Coast Guard.

This was Master Chief Towne's sixth and final inauguration as Drum Major. When asked about his experience leading the Band in the parades, MUCM Towne had this to say:



*It is always an honor to march in Washington, D.C., celebrating the inauguration of the President of the United States. This only happens every four years and it is a great event that honors the freely elected head of state of our great democracy. I am very grateful that I have personally marched in eight inaugural parades; two as a clarinetist in the Band and six leading the Band as the Drum Major. Presidential inaugurations are always a proud moment to be a member of the Coast Guard Band.*

While MUCM Towne's commanding ceremonial presence will certainly be missed, the Coast Guard Band will continue the quadrennial tradition of fulfilling its role in this unique and auspicious American event in 2021.

## RENOWNED TROMBONIST APPEARS WITH COAST GUARD BRASS

On occasion, the Coast Guard Band hosts guest musical artists from the civilian community for appearances with the ensemble. In December, Joseph Alessi, principal trombonist with the New York Philharmonic and internationally renowned soloist and pedagogue, visited Leamy Hall for a recital with the Coast Guard Band brass section. Mr. Alessi performed with the ensemble as a soloist, brass section member, and conductor during the performance. MU1 Wesley Mayhew, the Band's bass trombonist, has looked to Mr. Alessi as a musical inspiration throughout his career. "Performing with Joseph Alessi was a thrill for me; he has been a lifelong musical influence and inspiration. Hearing him perform and working with him was quite motivating, and I find myself implementing his teachings in my playing every day."





## CAREER SPOTLIGHTS

**MU1 Tyler Wilkins**

One of the newest members of the Coast Guard Band, MU1 Tyler Wilkins joined the Band in January 2016 as a member of the bassoon section and the Band's sole contrabassoonist. Originally from Erlanger, Kentucky, Tyler studied bassoon performance at Eastern Kentucky University and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Prior to his appointment to the Coast Guard Band, Tyler performed with orchestras in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, including the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and the Louisville Orchestra. "My first year in the Coast Guard Band has been an amazing time of growth and enjoyment. I have learned an incredible amount from my colleagues and play a lot of great music for the benefit of my country—I am incredibly blessed!"

**MUCS Vince Yanovitch**

Senior Chief Musician Vince Yanovitch has enjoyed a long and storied career as a trombonist in the Coast Guard Band. In 1991, two years after his graduation from the Juilliard School, Vince joined the band as assistant principal trombone. He was appointed principal trombone in 2008 by Captain Kenneth Megan and has remained in the position since that time. An avid golfer, one of Vince's most memorable experiences in the band came in 2016:

*One of my most memorable experiences in the band was actually last year, playing for the memorial service of golf legend Arnold Palmer. Mr. Palmer served in the Coast Guard in his younger days. When he passed away the family reached out to the Coast Guard to participate in his memorial service. The Brass Quintet assisted in the service which took place in Latrobe, Pennsylvania in the Basilica at Saint Vincent College. My father is a PGA professional so I grew up in a golfing family, which made this event extra special for me, and a definite highlight of my career in the band.*

## AWARDS and ADVANCEMENTS

Congratulations to **Musician First Class Megan Weikleenget** who received the Coast Guard Commendation Medal for giving more than one hundred performances worldwide as the Coast Guard Band's soprano soloist. Engagements include performances in Taiwan, Puerto Rico, and as a member of the Armed Forces Chorus for Super Bowl 50 in San Francisco.

**Senior Chief Musician Joshua Thomas** was advanced from Chief to Senior Chief Petty Officer on February 1, 2017. Originally from Plano, Texas, Senior Chief Thomas joined the Coast Guard Band in 2000 as a member of the saxophone section and currently serves as associate principal saxophonist.

**Chief Musician Steven Petersen** was advanced from Musician First Class to Chief Petty Officer on February 1, 2017. Originally from Scottville, Michigan, Chief Petersen joined the Coast Guard Band as a member of the percussion section in January, 2003.

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## CONCERT BAND SCHEDULE

**AMERICA REMEMBERS**

*Sunday, May 28, 1:00 p.m., Fort Trumbull, New London, Connecticut*

Begin your summer with the Coast Guard Band with a Memorial Day concert featuring a mix of traditional and contemporary patriotic music. Rain date: Monday, May 29, 1:00 p.m. at Ft. Trumbull.

**STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER!**

*Sunday, June 11, 5:30 p.m., Norwalk Historic Town Green, Norwalk, Connecticut*

Join the Band for an evening concert celebrating Flag Day in downtown Norwalk, CT. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will take place at the same time in the Norwalk Town Hall.

**IN STORM AND SUNSHINE**

*Sunday, June 18, 2:00 p.m., Leamy Concert Hall*

LCDR Williamson conducts a concert featuring the premiere of MU1 Sean Nelson's *Into the Oceans and Air*, the new service song for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Principal tuba MUC Adam Crowe will perform Jess Turner's tuba concerto, *Heavy Weather*, and MUC Chris Howard will guest conduct Kenneth Hesketh's *Infernal Ride*.

**INDEPENDENCE ROCKS!**

*Sunday, July 2, 2:00 p.m., Leamy Concert Hall*

LCDR Williamson conducts a concert of American patriotic and rock-and-roll favorites in celebration of Independence Day. Senior Chief Musician Andrew Greci will be performing his concerto for bass clarinet and band, *Concerto in Rock*.

**BIG BAND JAZZ AT FORT GRISWOLD**

*Saturday, August 5, 6:00 p.m., Fort Griswold, Groton, Connecticut*

Enjoy an eclectic assortment of swinging jazz as The Guardians Big Band performs a concert at historic Fort Griswold in Groton.

**COAST GUARD BAND AT AVERY POINT**

*Wednesday, August 9, 7:00 p.m., Avery Point, Groton, Connecticut*

Join the Coast Guard Band for an outdoor concert as LCDR Williamson conducts a program of patriotic music at the beautiful Avery Point campus. Rain date: Monday, August 10, 7:00 p.m. at Avery Point.

**....AND THE ROCKETS RED GLARE!**

*Sunday, September 3, 1:00 p.m., Fort Trumbull, New London Connecticut*

Close out your summer with the Coast Guard Band at our annual Labor Day concert. The concert will conclude with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, complete with cannons. Rain date: Monday, September 4, 1:00 p.m.

## DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND SCHEDULE

**JAZZ AT THE LAGRUA CENTER**

*Saturday, June 3, 2:00 p.m., La Grua Center, 32 Water St., Stonington, Connecticut*

**NEW LONDON SAILFEST**

*Friday, July 7, 6:00 p.m., New London Customs House, 150 Bank St., New London, Connecticut*

**250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILLIAM HART HOUSE**

*Sunday, July 9, 4:00 p.m., 350 Main St., Old Saybrook, Connecticut*

**THURSDAYS ON THE DOCK**

*Thursday, August 3, 5:30 p.m., Connecticut River Museum, 67 Main St., Essex, Connecticut*

**SUMMER SOUNDS AT MYSTIC RIVER PARK**

*Tuesday, August 8, 7:00 p.m., Mystic River Park, Cotrell St., Mystic, Connecticut*